

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 13, 19, 20 and 23; cancel claim 3; and add claims 27-30 in accordance with the following listing showing the status of all claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of periodically spraying live animals, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a portable electric sprayer, which includes:
 - (i) a fluid reservoir;
 - (ii) a nozzle for producing a spray of fluid;
 - (iii) a conduit between the fluid reservoir and the nozzle;
 - (iv) an electric pump coupled so as to pump fluid from the reservoir, through the conduit and out of nozzle;
 - (v) a control panel configured to accept user settings that control operation of the electric pump; ~~and~~
 - (vi) a control circuit electrically coupled to accept the user settings from the control panel and configured to activate and deactivate the electric pump when indicated by the user settings; and
 - (vii) a battery compartment for inserting at least one battery, whereby the portable electric sprayer may be battery-powered;
- (b) filling the fluid reservoir at least partially full with fluid;
- (c) setting the control panel to intermittently produce sprays of the fluid;
- (d) directing the nozzle so as to provide the sprays toward at least one small animal;
- and

- (e) allowing the portable electric sprayer to cycle through a plurality of the sprays while unattended,

wherein the control panel settings made in step (c) are chosen based on known needs of the at least one small animal to which the spray is to be applied.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of adjusting the nozzle to control dispersion of the sprays of fluid out of the nozzle.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1~~, of periodically spraying live animals, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a portable electric sprayer, which includes:
 - (i) a fluid reservoir;
 - (ii) a nozzle for producing a spray of fluid;
 - (iii) a conduit between the fluid reservoir and the nozzle;
 - (iv) an electric pump coupled so as to pump fluid from the reservoir, through the conduit and out of nozzle;
 - (v) a control panel configured to accept user settings that control operation of the electric pump; and
 - (vi) a control circuit electrically coupled to accept the user settings from the control panel and configured to activate and deactivate the electric pump when indicated by the user settings;

- (b) filling the fluid reservoir at least partially full with fluid;
- (c) setting the control panel to intermittently produce sprays of the fluid;
- (d) directing the nozzle so as to provide the sprays toward at least one small animal;
and
- (e) allowing the portable electric sprayer to cycle through a plurality of the sprays
while unattended,

wherein the control panel settings made in step (c) are chosen based on known needs of
the at least one small animal to which the spray is to be applied, and

wherein the electric pump and the fluid reservoir are contained within a main unit of the portable electric sprayer, and wherein the nozzle is disposed at a distal end of a flexible hose that is attached to the main unit, thereby permitting arbitrary positioning of the nozzle, independent of the main unit.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the portable electric sprayer includes a valve disposed between the fluid reservoir and the second nozzle for controlling the sprays out of the nozzle.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the nozzle includes a second valve for controlling the sprays out of the nozzle.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the flexible hose is readily detachable from the main unit.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 4, further comprising a step of adjusting the nozzle to control at least one of an amount or a dispersion of the sprays of fluid out of the nozzle.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the portable electric sprayer further includes a second nozzle and at least one valve configured to control the sprays through the nozzle and the second nozzle.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the second nozzle is mounted to the main unit of the portable electric sprayer.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 4, further comprising a step of attaching at least one of the nozzle or the flexible hose to another object, using a clip, so as to maintain the position of the nozzle in a selected direction.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using the control panel to specify duration of the sprays and an amount of time between the sprays.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of periodically spraying live animals, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a portable electric sprayer, which includes:

(i) a fluid reservoir;

(ii) a nozzle for producing a spray of fluid;

- (iii) a conduit between the fluid reservoir and the nozzle;
- (iv) an electric pump coupled so as to pump fluid from the reservoir, through the conduit and out of nozzle;
- (v) a control panel configured to accept user settings that control operation of the electric pump; and
- (vi) a control circuit electrically coupled to accept the user settings from the control panel and configured to activate and deactivate the electric pump when indicated by the user settings;
- (b) filling the fluid reservoir at least partially full with fluid;
- (c) setting the control panel to intermittently produce sprays of the fluid;
- (d) hanging the portable electric sprayer using at least one of a hook and a suction cup;
- (e) directing the nozzle so as to provide the sprays toward at least one small animal; and
- (f) allowing the portable electric sprayer to cycle through a plurality of the sprays while unattended,

wherein the control panel settings made in step (c) are chosen based on known needs of the at least one small animal to which the spray is to be applied.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using the control panel to select a time interval at which the sprays periodically are to occur.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using the control panel to select a duration of the sprays.
16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, further comprising a step of using the control panel to select a time interval at which the sprays periodically are to occur.
17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using the control panel to specify a spraying schedule that includes plural spraying events.
18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, further comprising a step of using the control panel to specify at least one aspect of the spraying events.
19. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1~~, of periodically spraying live animals, said method comprising:
- (a) obtaining a portable electric sprayer, which includes:
 - (i) a fluid reservoir;
 - (ii) a nozzle for producing a spray of fluid;
 - (iii) a conduit between the fluid reservoir and the nozzle;
 - (iv) an electric pump coupled so as to pump fluid from the reservoir, through the conduit and out of nozzle;
 - (v) a control panel configured to accept user settings that control operation of the electric pump; and

- (vi) a control circuit electrically coupled to accept the user settings from the control panel and configured to activate and deactivate the electric pump when indicated by the user settings;
- (b) filling the fluid reservoir at least partially full with fluid;
- (c) setting the control panel to intermittently produce sprays of the fluid;
- (d) directing the nozzle so as to provide the sprays toward at least one small animal;
and
- (e) allowing the portable electric sprayer to cycle through a plurality of the sprays while unattended,

wherein the control panel settings made in step (c) are chosen based on known needs of the at least one small animal to which the spray is to be applied, and

wherein the portable electric sprayer weighs less than 3 pounds when the fluid reservoir is empty and no battery is inserted.

20. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1,~~ of periodically spraying live animals, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a portable electric sprayer, which includes:
 - (i) a fluid reservoir;
 - (ii) a nozzle for producing a spray of fluid;
 - (iii) a conduit between the fluid reservoir and the nozzle;
 - (iv) an electric pump coupled so as to pump fluid from the reservoir, through the conduit and out of nozzle;

- (v) a control panel configured to accept user settings that control operation of the electric pump; and
 - (vi) a control circuit electrically coupled to accept the user settings from the control panel and configured to activate and deactivate the electric pump when indicated by the user settings;
 - (b) filling the fluid reservoir at least partially full with fluid;
 - (c) setting the control panel to intermittently produce sprays of the fluid;
 - (d) directing the nozzle so as to provide the sprays toward at least one small animal;
and
 - (e) allowing the portable electric sprayer to cycle through a plurality of the sprays while unattended,
- wherein the control panel settings made in step (c) are chosen based on known needs of the at least one small animal to which the spray is to be applied, and
- wherein the portable electric sprayer includes plural suction cups for attaching the portable electric sprayer to a wall.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a spray direction of the nozzle is independently adjustable.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the fluid reservoir, the electric pump and the control circuit are enclosed within a single housing.

23. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1,~~ of periodically spraying live animals, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a portable electric sprayer, which includes:
 - (i) a fluid reservoir;
 - (ii) a nozzle for producing a spray of fluid;
 - (iii) a conduit between the fluid reservoir and the nozzle;
 - (iv) an electric pump coupled so as to pump fluid from the reservoir, through the conduit and out of nozzle;
 - (v) a control panel configured to accept user settings that control operation of the electric pump; and
 - (vi) a control circuit electrically coupled to accept the user settings from the control panel and configured to activate and deactivate the electric pump when indicated by the user settings;
- (b) filling the fluid reservoir at least partially full with fluid;
- (c) setting the control panel to intermittently produce sprays of the fluid;
- (d) directing the nozzle so as to provide the sprays toward at least one small animal;
and
- (e) allowing the portable electric sprayer to cycle through a plurality of the sprays while unattended,

wherein the control panel settings made in step (c) are chosen based on known needs of the at least one small animal to which the spray is to be applied, and

wherein the portable electric sprayer includes attachment means for at least one of hanging the portable electric sprayer or attaching the portable electric sprayer to at least one of a terrarium or a bird cage.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one small animal comprises a reptile.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one small animal comprises a bird.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:

- (f) observing the at least one small animal after a period of spraying; and
- (g) based on the observations in step (f), at least one of modifying the settings made in step (c) or redirecting the nozzle.

27. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the electric pump and the fluid reservoir are contained within a main unit of the portable electric sprayer, and wherein the nozzle is disposed at a distal end of a flexible hose that is attached to the main unit, thereby permitting arbitrary positioning of the nozzle, independent of the main unit.

28. (New) A method according to claim 4, further comprising a step of using the control panel to select a time interval at which the sprays periodically are to occur.

29. (New) A method according to claim 4, further comprising a step of using the control panel to select a duration of the sprays.

30. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the portable electric sprayer includes attachment means for at least one of hanging the portable electric sprayer or attaching the portable electric sprayer to at least one of a terrarium or a bird cage.